GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:320
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
INTERCONNECT USER CHARGE
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is contemplating to provide interconnect user charge for cellphone companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Basic Phone companies have requested TRAI not to provide such charge in view of hike in the tariff;

(d) whether the TRAI has conceded this request;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the stand of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 320 FOR 12TH MARCH, 2003 REGARDING INTERCONNECT USER CHARGE.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. On 24th January, 2003, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued Telecommunication Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC) Regulation 2003 covering arrangements amongst service providers for payment of interconnection usage charges for the telecommunication services to be effective from 1st April, 2003.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) TRAI is not considering the request at this stage since the matter has become sub-judice before the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal.

(f) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000, powers to regulate arrangements amongst service providers of sharing their revenue derived from providing telecommunication services has been conferred upon Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The appeal against such regulation can be preferred before a statutory Tribunal, namely, Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).